



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5428

LCO No. 467

00467_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS STAFF
QUALIFICATIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
2 amended by section 15 of public act 03-6 of the June 30 special session,
3 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
4 *1, 2004*):

5 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
6 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school
7 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department
8 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,
9 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and
10 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, as
11 amended, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other
12 programs that meet such standards established by the Commissioner
13 of Education. The department shall establish standards for school
14 readiness programs. The standards may include, but need not be
15 limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content,
16 including preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement,

17 staff qualifications and training, and administration. The department
 18 shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for
 19 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation
 20 with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social Services and
 21 other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing education
 22 training program for the staff of school readiness programs. For
 23 purposes of this section, on and after July 1, 2004, "staff qualifications"
 24 means there is in each classroom an individual who has at least the
 25 following: (1) A credential issued by an organization approved by the
 26 Commissioner of Education and nine credits or more, and on and after
 27 July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or
 28 child development from an institution of higher education accredited
 29 by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or regionally
 30 accredited; (2) an associate's degree with nine credits or more, and on
 31 and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood
 32 education or child development from such an institution; [or] (3) a
 33 four-year degree with nine credits or more, and on and after July 1,
 34 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or child
 35 development from such an institution; or (4) certification pursuant to
 36 section 10-145 with an endorsement in early childhood education or
 37 special education.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To ease staff shortages without diminishing the quality of individuals employed for school readiness programs by amending staff qualifications.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]